

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Kiyohito ISHIDA, et al.

Appl. No. *To Be Assigned*

Confirmation No.: *To Be Assigned*

Filed: December 7, 2005

For: CONTINUOUS VACUUM  
CARBURIZING PROCESS AND  
APPARATUS FOR METAL WIRE,  
METAL STRIP OR METAL PIPE

Art Unit: *To Be Assigned*

Examiner: *To Be Assigned*

Atty. Docket No. 31238-225900

Customer No.

26694  
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

**MAIL STOP PCT**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement submitted under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97  
within the time specified under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

In order to comply the duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, submitted  
herewith is Form PTO/SB/08A listing the documents (cite Nos. A1- A-4) cited in the  
International Search report of International Application No. PCT/JP2004/009181. The  
relevance of each document is indicated in the International Search Report.

Copies of the documents are not being provided since copies are furnished directly by  
WIPO under an exchange program between the PTO, the EPO and the JPO.

10/560072

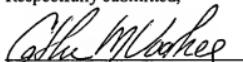
IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 09 DEC 2005

If the copies were not furnished and a copy of a cited document is desired, please inform the undersigned and a copy of the missing document will be supplied.

Additionally, in order to comply with applicant's duty of disclosure, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is notified of the documents (cite Nos. A-5 - A-9) which are also listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application. One copy of each of these documents, as well as an Abstract of each of the documents, is submitted herewith.

In view of the above, no further statement of relevance need be given, and as all requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, and all official guidelines pertaining to Information Disclosure Statements have been complied with, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited publications and make them of record.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine M. Voorhees  
Registration No. 33,074  
VENABLE LLP  
P.O. Box 34385  
Washington, D.C. 20043-9998  
Telephone: (202) 344-4000  
Telefax: (202) 344-8300

Date: December 9, 2005

CMV/elw  
::ODMA\PCDOCS\DC2DOCS\1705033\1

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO D9 DEC 2009

PTO/EPO98-0b (08-03)

Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

|  |   |    |   |                        |                              |
|--|---|----|---|------------------------|------------------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO  |   |    |   | Complete if Known      |                              |
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |   |    |   | Application Number     | Not Yet Assigned 10 / 560072 |
| Sheet  | 1 | of | 1 | Filing Date            | Concurrently Herewith        |
|  |   |    |   | First Named Inventor   | Kiyohito Ishida              |
|  |   |    |   | Art Unit               | NIA 1793                     |
|  |   |    |   | Examiner Name          | Not Yet Assigned* Zhu        |
|  |   |    |   | Attorney Docket Number | 31238-225900                 |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS |                       |   |                                |  |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Examiner Initials*    | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number<br>Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where<br>Relevant Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear |
| /W.Z./                | A-1                   | JP 3-247749   | 11/05/1991                     |  |   |
| /W.Z./                | A-2                   | JP 3-87350  | 04/12/1991                     |  |   |
| /W.Z./                | A-3                   | JP 2003-171756  | 06/20/2003                     |  |   |
| /W.Z./                | A-4                   | JP 2003-129215  | 05/08/2003                     |  |   |
| /W.Z./                | A-5                   | JP 3053605  | 08/17/1999                     |  | Abstract  |
| /W.Z./                | A-6                   | JP 6192814  | 07/12/1994                     |  | Abstract  |
| /W.Z./                | A-7                   | JP 126829   | 05/16/1995                     |  | Abstract  |
| /W.Z./                | A-8                   | JP 3247749  | 11/05/1991                     |  | Abstract  |
| /W.Z./                | A-9                   | JP 3087350  | 04/12/1991                     |  | Abstract  |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

| NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS |                       |   |  |  |                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner Initials*              | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |  |  |                |
|                                 |                       |   |  |  | T <sup>2</sup> |

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

|                    |               |                 |            |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Examiner Signature | /Weiping Zhu/ | Date Considered | 03/17/2008 |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|